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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NAGASE

Serial No. 09/921,601

Filed: August 6, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 427-45

Group: 2173

Examiner: T. Hailu

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* * * * *

September 7, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile number (703) 872-9306, on this 7th day of September, 2004.



Michael J. Shea

In response to the office action dated June 4, 2004, please amend the subject patent application as follows. This response is timely filed before the expiration of the three (3) month shortened statutory period for response set in the office action (September 4, 2004 being a Saturday; September 5, 2004 being a Sunday; and September 6, 2004 being a federal holiday).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 7.